

Remarks

Claims 1-11 are pending.

Claims 1, 4 and 11 are amended.

Claims 1-11 are rejected

Amendments

Claim 1 is amended to read "A liquid product obtained". Support is found in the abstract and first paragraph of the disclosure.

Claim 4 and 11 is amended to include the lower bound on the number of carbon atoms in the alkyl groups of component b). Support is found in original claim 1.

No new matter is added.

Claim Rejections

35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1-5 and 8 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Ross, US 5,892,097

Claims 1-5 and 8 are rejected as anticipated under 102(b) by Ross, US 5,892,097.

The examiner admits that the alcohol used to prepare the ester reactant of example 12 is a lower alcohol than recited from component b). The examiner however, takes the position that the product of example 12 of Ross will be the same as the product formed by the reaction of the components recited in claim 1.

Applicants have amended to require that the present composition be a "liquid product". The product produced in accordance with Ross in Example 12 is a solid. As the product-by-process presently claimed is a "liquid" and there is no suggestion or teaching in Ross to form a liquid product, Ross can not anticipate the claimed invention.

Claims 1-6 and 8 are rejected as anticipated under 102(b) as anticipated by Cottman, US 4,829,115 on the grounds that Cottman discloses thiodiethylene-bis-[3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)propionate].

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

While Cottman teaches thiodiethylene-bis-[3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)propionate], the present claims require the presence of more than thiodiethylene-bis-[3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)propionate]. The present claims additionally require the presence of at least a C4 ester of the compound of formula (1). Thus there is no overlap between Cottman and the present product-by-process claim.

35 USC 103(a)

Claims 7 and 9-11 are rejected under 103(a) over Ross in view of Gubler, US 4,618,700.

Applicants respectfully point out the claims 7 and 9-11 are directed to a process for preparing a **liquid** mixture of phenolic sulphur-containing antioxidants.

All the products of Gubler produce solid products. Examples 1-10 make this very clear as a m.p. is listed for each product. As Ross does not suggest the formation of a liquid product and Gubler does not make up for this deficiency, the limitations of the present claims cannot be obvious.

The Examiner is kindly requested to reconsider and to withdraw the present rejections.

Applicants submit that the present claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that they be found allowable.

Respectfully submitted,



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